

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

Richmond, Jan. 5th, 1864.
The House new meets every day at eleven o'clock. This morning the military committee reported an act to increase the efficiency of the army by the employment of free negroes and slaves in certain capacities, which provides that all male free negroes, between 14 and 50, be held liable to perform any duty in connection with the military defences of the country such as work on the fortifications, government work for the production or preparation of materials of war, or in the military hospitals, as the secretary of War may from time to time prescribe, and while performing such duties they shall receive rations, clothing and eleven dollars per month. It authorizes the secretary also to employ as many male slaves as the wants of his service may require, furnishing them clothing and pay the owner seven dollars per month. In case of their loss by account of the enemy, or escape to the enemy, or disease incurred in the discharge of the service required, the owner is entitled to receive their value. The Secretary of War is authorized to employ as many slaves as required from time to time, when he deems it expedient. The bill to place in service citizens of any state or territory of the United States, and slaves, was taken up. A motion to refer it back to the committee, with instructions to report the various amendment, was discussed till the hour for the special order arrived when they went into committee on the tax and currency bills. Great anxiety manifested to know the provisions of the bills, but the House has seen disposed to consider the measure in secret session.

The Senate passed a bill to declare the intent and meaning of the eleventh section of the Tax act that farmers shall not be required to pay one-half of their straw, or wheat, oats, barley, rye, and cornstarch, and went into a secret session at an early hour.

FROM RICHMOND.

Richmond, Jan. 5th, 1864.
General Morgan, who was expected here this afternoon from Danville, will not arrive until Thursday.

Our latest Northern news are to the 25th ult.

Prices of provisions continue to advance in this market.

Two extensive auction sales of stocks are advertized to take place this week.

Confederate eight or cent bonds, due date, aclyst, to day at 117.

FROM NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

Craxton, C. S., Jan. 4th, 1864.
A heavy snow storm has prevailed all day, which will impede military operations for the present.

Persons writing to soldiers, or sending them papers, are earnestly requested to prepay the postage. Otherwise it will be necessary to add a large number of postage, on which the postage is not prepaid, remained in the mail post office on the first of January.

FROM NORTHERN VIRGINIA.

Craxton, C. S., Jan. 5th, 1864.
A few prisoners, captured by the Black Horse Cavalry last night, have been received here. The enemy have made a small force of infantry base camp during the past week.

In the direction of Madison C. H., from Culpeper H. H., to a point about a mile beyond the former post.

FROM CHARLESTON.

Charleston, Jan. 5, 1864.
The center opened fire on the city last night at 10 o'clock, and fired one shell every half hour to half past 5 o'clock this morning. Six iron shells in all were thrown over the city. The Yankees opened two more embrasures, one bearing on the city, and the other on James' Island.

Nothing between the batteries, and all fire at short range.

The number of shells thrown into the city, up to the time of this communication, is about 100.

Battle of the Bunker. Among our Prisoners from the Bunker.

The five hundred prisoners who arrived in this city on Monday night are mostly from Maryland and remain in the city. The prisoners relate an incident that occurred on the 24th instant at Point Lookout, Maryland, upon the occasion of the visit of Mr. Butler, the "unprincipled tyrant," to the prisoners' camp.

He came with his still surrounding his model guard, and a couple of hundred mounted guard forming a solid phalanx about him, or, rather, "A line and a half,"

The Guard, for the first time in his military experience, in the midst of eight or ten thousand of the men who had the most reason to fear, even without arms and military, cow-d soul must have trembled in consternation.

Yankees, and hissing voices of hatred, and the derson, smote upon him like a pelting storm.

Long and a half were particularly exasperated, and seemed bent on personal harm to the Guard, who dared, with consciousness of security, to insult them by his presence.

Like the jackan that dances in the presence of the snarled lion, he did not dare to move, but stood, like a statue, in the middle of the Guard.

But better counsel prevailed. A wall sixteen feet high enclosed them with cannon mounted and pointing into the block houses, ready to sweep them with grape.

The Beast, less noble in appearance than the animal he rode, signified that he wished to speak to some of the prisoners, and struck up a conversation with a quantity concerning the nations engaged. Learning that he said they were entitled to more, and should receive it. That was evidently a compromise dodge of the old bear-eyed brigadier, and was intended to conciliate the young ones, and bring them into line.

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